

Applic. No.: 10/657,603

Amdt. Dated July 29, 2005

Reply to Office action of June 14, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-6, 8-14, and 16 remain in the application. Claims 5 and 13 have been amended. Claims 7, 15, and 17 have been cancelled. Claims 1-4 and 9-12 have been allowed.

In item 4 on pages 2-3 of the above-identified Office action, claim 17 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

More specifically, the Examiner has stated that the limitation of claim 17 is not supported in the original disclosure. Claim 17 has been cancelled.

It is accordingly believed that the claims meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Should the Examiner find any further objectionable items, counsel would appreciate a telephone call during which the matter may be resolved.

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In item 7 on pages 3-4 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 5-6, 13-14 (incorrectly listed by the Examiner as 13-15), and 17 have been rejected as being anticipated by Setlak (WO 98/52157) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

In item 9 on pages 5-6 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 8 and 16 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Setlak and further in view of Kramer (US 6,512,381 B2) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

The rejections have been noted and claims 5 and 13 have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application.

More specifically, the feature of claim 7 has been added to claim 5 and the feature of claim 15 has been added to claim 13. Since claim 7 and 15 contain allowable subject matter as indicated in item 11 on page 6 of the Office action, claims 5 and 13 is now believed to be allowable. Since claims 6, 8, 14, and 16 are ultimately dependent on claims 5 or 13, they are believed to be patentable as well.

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Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's statement in item 10 on page 6 of the above-mentioned Office action that claims 1-4 and 9-12 are allowed.

Applicants also acknowledge the Examiner's statement in item 11 on page 6 of the above-mentioned Office action that claims 7 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The feature of claim 7 has been added to claim 5 and the feature of claim 15 has been added to claim 13.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-6, 8-14, and 16 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out. In the alternative, the entry of the amendment is requested as it is believed to place the application in better condition for appeal, without requiring extension of the field of search.

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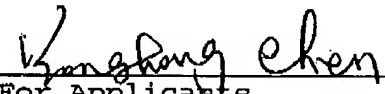
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If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to 37 CFR Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,

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For Applicants

YC

July 29, 2005

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